

Adult Literacy Contact Centre NEWSLETTER



August 1993

Volume 6, Number 7

A project of the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C.

"Take Five and Read" on September 8

B.C. public libraries and community literacy groups will join other agencies across Canada on International Literacy Day by participating in the "Take Five and Read, Canada" campaign on September 8.

The campaign urges every Canadian to stop at 12:00 noon on September 8 and "spend five minutes reading a book, a newspaper, anything, as a reminder of how important it is to be able to read and how essential reading is in our everyday lives."

The campaign is an initiative of Frontier College, a national, volunteer-based literacy organization founded in 1899 and headquartered in Toronto.

In B.C., Literacy B.C. and the B.C. Library Association (BCLA) are jointly producing "Take Five and Read" information kits. The kits will contain posters, bookmarks and suggestions for International Literacy Day activities. They will be distributed throughout B.C. in mid-August.

Additional sponsors of the B.C. Take Five and Read campaign are: the B.C. Literacy Public Awareness Campaign; the Greater Vancouver Library Federation; Canada Post Corporation; the Library Services Branch of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Recreation and Housing; and

Pippin Publishing Ltd.

For further information on Take Five and Read, contact:

Linda Mitchell
Executive Director
Literacy B.C.
Phone: 687-5077 (Vancouver)

or:

Thomas Quigley, Librarian
Languages and Literature Subject Division
Vancouver Public Library
Central Branch
Phone: 665-3594 ☐

Wednesday, September 8 is International Literacy Day !

1993 marks the 26th anniversary of International Literacy Day. This day for celebrating literacy worldwide was first launched in 1967 by the Director-General of Unesco from the Unesco pavilion at the Expo '67 world's fair in Montreal.

Walk for Literacy in Prince George

Constance White, a College of New Caledonia adult basic education student, is spearheading a drive for increased awareness of local literacy activities with a "walk for literacy" in Prince George on September 8, 1993 -- International Literacy Day.

The walk is the first event for the newly-created Prince George "Support for Literacy" group and is co-sponsored with Project Literacy Prince George.

The general public is asked to join the organizers in a three hour walk through the downtown area. It will be led by Prince George Mayor John Blackhouse.

The walk begins at noon from the Prince George Public Library and finishes at the same location at 3:00 p.m. Participants may complete the entire route or choose any number of shortcuts in order to return to the public library.

Joan Jarman, Chair, Project Literacy Prince George, says organizers are promoting the event in conjunction with the Frontier College "Take Five and Read" campaign. (See story on page 1.)

The 12-member Support for Literacy group is looking for adult learners who wish to become members. The group plans to begin fundraising activities in partnership with Project Literacy Prince George in 1994.

For more information on the walk or the literacy support group, contact:

Constance White
Phone: 562-9161 (Prince George)

or:

Joan Jarman
Chair, Project Literacy Prince George
Prince George Public Library
887 Dominion Street
Prince George, B.C.
V2L 5L1
Phone: 563-9251
Fax: 563-0892 ☐

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Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1L8
1-800-663-1293 Toll-free in B.C.
684-0624 Lower Mainland
684-8520 Facsimile

The Adult Literacy Contact Centre is a project of the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C. and is jointly funded by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology; and the National Literacy Secretariat.

The Centre welcomes receiving your literacy news by phone, fax or mail. We reserve the right to edit written submissions for the newsletter.

The newsletter is published monthly (except as noted). It is available free of charge to any individual or agency upon request.



B.C. Cost-shared Projects Update

A total of 35 B.C. literacy cost-shared projects have been approved for 1993/94. Mary Waddington, Coordinator, Literacy and ABE Programs, Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology, says college and community partners have been contacted by the MAETT and the National Literacy Secretariat. The date for a public announcement of the projects is still to be announced.

For more information, contact:

Mary Waddington
Coordinator
Literacy and ABE Programs
Ministry of Advanced Education,
Training and Technology
Second Floor - 838 Fort Street
Victoria, B.C.
V8V 1X4
Phone: 387-6174
Fax: 356-8851 ☐

Regional PD Workshops Continue

Professional development workshops for literacy and adult basic education practitioners in B.C. will continue this fall with the first workshops scheduled for the northwest region in September.

The workshops are part of the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C.'s Regional Professional Development and Needs Assessment Project, which began with a workshop in the North Central Region (Prince George) last June. Project Coordinator Audrey Thomas has confirmed the following information for the remaining six regions:

Northwest (Terrace) September 23 - 24

Contact: Larry Bolingbroke
ABE Coordinator/Instructor
Northwest Community College
Phone: 635-6511 (local 239)
or
Margo Normandeau
Program Support
Northwest Community College
Phone: 635-6511 (local 243)

September 23:

"Creating learning materials"
Presenter:
Darrel McLeod, Director,
K'noowenchoot Centre,
Aboriginal Adult Education
Resources, Salmon Arm

"Strategies for teaching reading and writing"

Presenters: Paula Davies,
Coordinator,
Volunteer Adult Literacy
Tutoring Program; and
Ann McQuaid,
Instructor,
Adult Basic Education,
College of New Caledonia

September 24:

"Leading students to quality work"

Presenter: Lynn Hughes,
Counsellor,
Northwest Counselling and
Training Centre

"Aboriginal curriculum"

Presenter: Darrel McLeod
(half-day session)

"Learnings from China"

Presenters: Jim Bray and
Larry Bolingbroke
(half-day session)

Cariboo-Okanagan (Kamloops)

September 30 - October 1

Contact: Jim Bray, Instructor
College Access Faculty
Developmental & Regional Programs
University College of the Cariboo
Phone: 828-5284 or 828-5290

September 30:

"Strategies for teaching critical thinking"

Presenter: Moira
Gutteridge, Instructor of
Philosophy, Humanities
Department, University
College of the Fraser Valley

October 1:

(Workshop topic still to be decided.)

Northeast (Dawson Creek) October 14 - 15

Contact: Jeanne Purvis
Instructor, Adult Basic Education
Northern Lights College
Phone: 782-5251 (extension 1254)

Kootenay (Cranbrook) October 28 - 29

Contact: Bob Gadsby, Instructor
Adult Basic Education
East Kootenay Community College
Phone: 342-3210

Vancouver Island (Nanaimo) November 18 - 19

Contact: Lynn Hunter
Literacy Coordinator
Developmental Programs
Malaspina College
Phone: 755-8741

Lower Mainland

(Dates, location and contact to be announced.)

For further information phone the local contacts or:

Audrey Thomas
Project Coordinator
Regional Professional Development
and Needs Assessment Project
Phone: 598-9218 (Victoria) ☐



**The Adult Basic Education
Association of B.C.**

NEW RESOURCES

Reaching Your Readers: A Fieldtesting Guide for Community Groups.
Legal Services Society of B.C.
(1993).

This publication is intended to help advocacy and self-help organizations get their message across to the target audience when producing materials such as brochures, flyers, pamphlets, or posters and videos. Sections of the guide are designed to help the user identify the appropriate method to use, understand the advantages and disadvantages of each method, and assess the feedback that results.

The authors have extensive experience in successfully using the fieldtesting methods described in the guide to test public legal education materials with community groups. The methods they describe are "inexpensive" and include group testing, individual testing, questionnaires, "talking aloud," and site testing.

The guide describes each method by a question-and-answer format, and illustrates each with examples taken from actual publications. (For example, a sample questionnaire is based on one developed by the National Literacy Secretariat which was used in testing a plain language handbook.)

In, "What to do with the Fieldtesting Results," the authors provide examples of comments made on the content, language, tone, organization and design of some publications tested by the Legal Services Society. In addition, five fact sheets, published by the Society, cover topics such as plain language writing and design, and the mechanics of printing and distribution (finding a printer, getting estimates, and meeting printers' requirements).

To order the guide, contact:

Distribution Clerk
Publishing Division
Legal Services Society of B.C.
Box 3, Suite 300
1140 West Pender Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6E 4G1
Phone: 660-4600 ☐

Narrowing the Skills Gap: Workplace Literacy Programs in Canada. Partnerships in Learning (1993).

Case studies of eight workplace literacy programs currently providing basic skills training to employees of business and industry across Canada are featured in this recently published report by a research consortium chaired by Maurice C. Taylor.

The report is intended to serve as a tool for managers, unions, trainers, and other service providers who are interested in initiating or further developing a workplace education program.

Based on consultations with program participants, including employers, employees, unions, and educational partners, the report documents each program's unique history. Factors common to all eight programs, and cited by the participants as important to their success, are summarized at the conclusion of the report.

One of the report's findings is that "Successful programs [view] basic education in the workplace within its broader socio-economic, political and educational context [and] see the relationship between the broader intent of education and the narrower focus of training....Individual needs within and beyond the workplace are combined with corporate needs."

The Basic Skills Upgrading Program, a pilot project of the B.C. Construction Industry Skills Improvement Council (SkillPlan), is one of the case studies in the report. Its success is attributed by the report to, among other factors, a willingness to innovate by developing unique partnerships,

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counselling services and instructional movies, including a new learning technology.

Limited copies of the report and a report summary (*Making Worker Training Successful: Getting Down to Business*) are available upon request from:

Brigid Hayes, Program Consultant
National Literacy Secretariat
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 1K5
Phone: (819) 953-5280
Fax: (819) 953-8076 □

Expanded ABE facilities at new North Island College

A new campus of North Island College, Port Alberni, scheduled for occupancy in the fall of 1994, will feature expanded space for adult basic education (ABE).

The \$7.5 million facility, on eight hectares of land donated by the City of Port Alberni, will have specialized space available for ABE, adult special education, and English as a second language, including a language laboratory.

Three new programs will be added to the new campus: Coastal Tourism, First Nations Transition and the Disabled Workers' Program. □

Correctional Education Conference

An international conference with a selection of workshops on literacy-related themes will take place in Whistler, B.C. from October 3 - 6, 1993.

The Correctional Education Association (CEA) Region VI conference, "New Directions in Prison Education," will feature speakers from Canada, England and the U.S. The conference is supported by the B.C. chapter of the Correctional Education Association; the Institute for the Humanities, Simon Fraser University; the Correctional Service of Canada (Pacific Region); and the Corrections Branch, B.C. Ministry of the Attorney General.

The conference is designed to meet the needs and interests of the correctional education field as well as those concerned with offender employment, education, training or well-being.

Workshops to be offered include:

❖ If They Can't See, How Can You Expect Them to Read?

Presenter: David Plodwick, Trainer, Pioneer Industries (Seattle)

❖ Opening Minds Behind Closed Doors: Literacy in B.C. Corrections

Presenter: independent adult education and literacy consultant, Audrey Thomas (Victoria)

❖ Pathfinder Learning System

Presenter: Tanya Northcott, Principal, Pathfinder Learning Systems Corporation (New Westminster)

❖ PLATO 2000

Presenter: Kati Boehm, Account Manager, TRO Learning (Duvall, Washington)

❖ The Latest in Literacy Education: CEA's Outreach Training Centre

Presenters: Steve Steurer Executive Director, CEA, and Alice Tracey, Assistant Director, CEA (Washington, D.C.)

The early registration deadline for CEA members, non-members and students is September 10, 1993.

For more information, contact:

Conference Services
Halpern Centre
Simon Fraser University
Burnaby, B.C.
V5A 1S6
Phone: 291-4910
Fax: 291-3420
E-mail: Conference_Services@sfu.ca



Job Opportunities in Literacy

Regional Learner Events, a 1993/94 B.C. literacy cost-shared project sponsored by Selkirk College, is in need of a new Coordinator.

The part time work will include:

- ❖ processing applications from provincial learner groups
- ❖ organizing and facilitating Provincial Learner Events Advisory Committee meetings and two meetings of the project's evaluation sub-committee
- ❖ submitting reports to funding agencies
- ❖ editing *Learners Talking to Learners*, the annual collection of writing by learners produced as a product of this project.

Current (1992/93) Regional Learner Events project coordinator, Patty Bossort, says the ideal candidate will be, "a people person, experienced in group facilitating, with an understanding of adult literacy and good clerical, organizational and bookkeeping skills."

Bossort says that, instead of a resume, applicants should submit a two-page letter in clear, plain language outlining their background in adult literacy, experience

facilitating groups, and why they are applying.

The starting date for the position is October 1, 1993.

The deadline for applications is August 30, 1993.

Mail applications to:

Teresa Dresser, Chair
Learner Events Advisory
Committee
Box 125
Cassidy, B.C.
V0R 1H0

For further information,
phone:

Patty Bossort
Coordinator, Learner Events
Advisory Committee
358-2391 (Silverton, B.C.)

Literacy B.C. is hiring a
Coordinator of Training and
Regional Development.

The duties will include:

- ❖ planning and coordination of all Literacy B.C. training events
- ❖ liaison with and provision of support for new and existing regional literacy networks/organizations
- ❖ planning, coordination and implementation of the 1994 Summer Institute for Literacy Practitioners

- ❖ assistance with bi-monthly newsletter production; report writing

The required qualifications are:

- ❖ previous experience in literacy adult basic education, training and curriculum development
- ❖ excellent skills in facilitating and organizing
- ❖ excellent verbal and written skills
- ❖ experience working with volunteers, committees, and boards of directors
- ❖ database and word processing skills; experience working within a budget; financial reporting
- ❖ experience working with adult learners

The Coordinator will work directly with the Literacy B.C. Executive Director and related committees.

The deadline for applications is August 31, 1993.

Mail or fax resume to:

Linda Mitchell
Executive Director
Literacy B.C.
1128 - 510 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6B 1L8
Fax: 687-5076 ☐